

Southern Baptist Convention

Louisiana Superdome

June 15-17, 1982

New Orleans, LA

Convention Theme: "Affirming Christ's Bold Commands"

Tuesday Theme: "Reach People"

Tuesday Morning, June 15, 1982

9:00—Music for Inspiration—The Celebration Singers and The Sounds of Joy Orchestra, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, OK, Aubie McSwain, director
 9:30—Call to Order
 Congregational Singing—Aubie McSwain, Del City, OK
 Scripture—Scott Smith, Del City, OK
 Prayer—Tom Crews, Ringgold, VA
 9:45—Registration and Constitution of Convention Committee on Order of Business—Charles G. Fuller, Roanoke, VA
 9:55—Welcome—J. D. Grey, New Orleans, LA
 10:00—Response—Bill Weber, Dallas, TX
 10:10—Introduction of Fraternal Messengers
 10:20—Convention Photograph
 10:25—Announcement of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Committee on Tellers—Bailey E. Smith, SBC president, Del City, OK
 10:30—Executive Committee Report (Part 1)—Harold C. Bennett, Nashville, TN
 11:00—Presentation of Gavels
 Introduction of business and resolutions
 11:25—Congregational Singing—Aubie McSwain, Del City, OK
 11:30—Music—The Celebration Singers and The Sounds of Joy Orchestra, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, OK
 11:35—The President's Address—Bailey E. Smith, Del City, OK
 12:00—Benediction—Bill Smith, Honolulu, HI

Tuesday Afternoon, June 15, 1982

1:30—Music for Inspiration—(Evangelistic Singers)
 2:30—Congregational Singing—Carroll Lowe, Alexandria, LA
 Scripture—Rachel (Mrs. Edwin) Howard, Doraville, GA
 Prayer—David Page, Los Angeles, CA
 2:45—Messenger Information Survey
 2:55—Election of Officers
 3:30—Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 3:45—Executive Committee Report (Part 2)—Harold C. Bennett, Nashville, TN
 4:25—Annuity Board Report—Darold H. Morgan, Dallas, TX
 4:45—Congregational Singing—Carroll Lowe, Alexandria, LA
 4:50—Business and Election of Officers (Second)
 5:15—Benediction—Calvin Metcalf, Knoxville, TN
 (Continued on page 2)

Brotherhood trustees OK plans for men's panel

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved plans to involve more men in Brotherhood work, supported a study of Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador programs, and gave the go ahead for construction of a national conference center during the commission's semi-annual meeting in Nashville April 22-24.

In an effort to involve men not currently active in Brotherhood programs, the commission approved formation of a Fellowship of Baptist Men and set up a committee of laymen to suggest more ways laymen can become involved in missions through Brotherhood programs.

Trustees gave support to a study of Baptist men and Royal Ambassador programs which state Brotherhood leaders suggested in a meeting prior to the trustees meeting.

Eight state Brotherhood leaders and eight commission staff members will evaluate the Brotherhood programs in an effort to project needs and structures for Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors in the near future and beyond 1985.

Construction will begin in May on the Glendon McCullough Conference Center. Space at the Commission's building in Memphis will be remodeled for \$300,000 to accommodate national Brotherhood training seminars, Brotherhood Commission meetings, and other conferences.

Once was not enough for this volunteer

By Mark Kelly

STORRS, Conn.—Ken Michels decided one stint in missions was not enough.

Michels, 27, recently finished two years as a Southern Baptist missionary journeyman in Glasgow, Scotland, serving as assistant pastor and college minister for Adelaide Place Baptist Church.



Ken Michels

Now Michels has begun another two-year term, this time as volunteer campus minister at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

As a preliminary step toward application for career missions with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Michels applied for a two-year post with Mission Service Corps, a Southern Baptist program which enlists self-supporting volunteers for full-time ministry. First Baptist Church in Tolland and Mansfield Baptist Fellowship provide Michels' support.

A native of Brookhaven, Miss., Michels finds ministries in Scotland and New England similar. "Neither is a traditional Southern Baptist area," he quips.

Statistics confirm his statement. Of the University of Connecticut's 20,000 students, only 1,000 express a religious affiliation of any kind; only 17 students register a Baptist preference.

A graduate of Ole Miss and of New Orleans Seminary, Michels finds student ministries challenging, and hopes to continue in student work following his present two-year post, perhaps even returning to Scotland.

But for now, reaching students at the University of Connecticut is challenging enough. "You begin from scratch on this campus," notes Michels. "We have to explain who we are to almost everyone here."

(Mark Kelly is Mission Service Corps writer/photographer, MSC Communications Team.)

Bailey Smith credits beliefs for forging 'new peace'

By Dan Martin

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)—Bailey E. Smith believes the "new peace" in the 13.8-million member Southern Baptist Convention is the greatest contribution he has made during his two years as president which end June 17 at the close of the 1982 annual SBC meeting in New Orleans.

While controversy over a remark he made about Jews and their prayers is the "most memorable" event of his presidency, Smith says he believes his "greatest contribution is... bringing harmony to the convention."

The greatest surprise has been the "national exposure" afforded the president of the denomination. "I had no idea the visibility I would have," he says. "The leader of the denomination is in a different world. The president of the Southern Baptist Convention is a world leader. My name has been in every major newspaper—not only in America, but in Europe as well."

During his term of office, Smith has been in the White House three times, once with Jimmy Carter,

and twice with Ronald Reagan. Once, he stood by Reagan while the president signed a bill. "I was there not because I was Bailey Smith, but because I was SBC president."

Smith, 44, the youngest man in more than a century to be SBC president, was thrust into the national spotlight less than three months after his first-ballot election in July of 1980 in St. Louis. In August, he preached at the National Affairs Briefing, a religious-political rally in Dallas and during his sermon extolling the virtues of Christ, he commented that "God Almighty does not hear the prayers of a Jew."

The comment was slow to gain attention, but then exploded into a national news story. In the aftermath, Smith met leaders of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and later toured Israel as their guest.

"I have been gratified that Jewish leaders said the remark brought about great improvements in Baptist-Jewish relationships," Smith said.

Smith has faced scrutiny and controversy within

and without the denomination and even is the first incumbent president in recent memory to face serious challenge for re-election. Traditionally, SBC presidents are elected to a second one-year term without opposition but Smith was challenged by Abner McCall, retired president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, Smith won with 60 percent of the vote.

"I was not offended somebody was nominated against me in Los Angeles, he says. "I had bathed my life in prayer and knew God had put me in this position for the sake of the denomination."

"Los Angeles, he said, was a "harmonious convention," going on to say that "only a man who believes in inerrancy could have brought the harmony... only a man who believes as I could have brought the conservative forces together."

"I believe if the convention had a president who said the Bible had faults, mistakes and errors, he would never have been trusted by the majority of conservatives and been able to bring about the har-

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20th century version

Baptist witnessing plan is "Battle of New Orleans"

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

associate editor, *Baptist Message*

NEW ORLEANS—A visitation blitz June 13 within the city of New Orleans by Baptists will provide an unparalleled witnessing opportunity, according to Ron Herrod, chairman of Bold Mission-New Orleans and pastor of Kenner's First Baptist Church.

"Our goal is to have 5000 ministers and laypersons to disburse into inner-city residential and business areas for witnessing," Herrod said.

Massive campaign wants 5,000 to witness in New Orleans

Two hundred trained group leaders have been enlisted to provide orientation for those participating and buses will take them to their areas of ministry, he said.

The witnessing event will precede a rally in the Louisiana Superdome where Billy Graham has been scheduled as guest speaker.

Herrod said "The temptation is for people to come to the Graham rally only and miss the visitation. But the visitation among apartment buildings, residences and business places will provide the opportunity to invite unchurched people to attend the Graham rally.

"Among those who have agreed to assist with the visitation blitz are Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Landrum Leavell II, president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Graham and Cliff Barrows have been invited to participate, also," Herrod said.

A bulletin from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission stated "We are cooperating in an effort to get 5000 persons to witness throughout the city. We would like to have as many men as possible to converge on New Orleans to witness to as many lost persons as possible."

John Winters, director of Louisiana Baptist Men, said efforts are being made to enlist 1000 men from outside the New Orleans area to assist with the program.

Herrod called the effort the "20th Century Battle of New Orleans."

The schedule for the day begins at 1 p.m. with orientation of group leaders. At 2 p.m. there will be training, instruction and distribution of materials for canvassers.

Buses will leave the Superdome for the assigned witnessing areas and team members will be picked up and returned to the Superdome at 6 p.m.

The Bold Mission Rally begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Superdome with a concert by the Centurymen and Festival Choirs led by Buryl Red. Following other program events Billy Graham is scheduled to preach at 8 p.m., Herrod said.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Los Angeles last June adopted a resolution supporting "Bold Mission-New Orleans."

Herrod said persons making visits will be organized into teams and dis-

bursed to various areas of the city, some to include high-rise apartment buildings.

Statistics indicate the inner-city has

approximately 110,000 households.

"Obviously the task is enormous and the potential is tremendous," Herrod said.

Persons wishing to participate in the afternoon witnessing program may contact Herrod at P. O. Box 1357, Kenner, La. 70063.



"Oh, the joy of it!"

One thousand, nine hundred, and sixty-eight registered for the state Young Musicians Choral Festival April 24 at the MC Coliseum in Clinton. Also 200 additional guests came for the afternoon concert, which began with a presentation of "Oh, the Joy of It!" by Buryl Red. Youths responded with enthusiasm to Bill Green, guest conductor; Barry Landrum, entertainer; and Bob Dunaway, artist, who painted a nature collage. Green is minister of music at First Baptist, Richardson, Tex.; Landrum is pastor of First Baptist, Bossier City, La.; and

Dunaway is chairman of the art department at Hinds Junior College. James A. Goff of First, Clinton, was organist and Bobbie H. Smith of Alta Woods, Jackson, was pianist. Trophies were given for most singers present to Elliston, Union County (resident membership under 200); First Church, Lexington (resident membership 201-500); and Harrisburg, Tupelo (resident membership over 500); Sarah-Talley, consultant, Church Music department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was coordinator.

Doug Day is VTS coordinator

Doug Day, minister of education and

administration at First Baptist Church, Starkville, will become the

first coordinator of the Southern Baptist Video Tape Service, effective June 8.

VTS is a convention-wide project to produce teaching, training, and informational materials on video tape for distribution to churches, associations, and state conventions.

Day, 32, will be employed by the Ad

Hoc Committee for the Video Tape Service, which administers the project. The Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Cecil Ray, executive secretary for the North Carolina Baptist Convention, has representatives of the Sunday School Board, the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the Radio and Television Commission, and other state executive secretaries including Earl Kelly, of Mississippi.

Day will base his work at the Radio-Television Commission in Fort Worth where the tapes are being produced. He told the *Baptist Record* his salary will come from the R-TV Commission and the Sunday School Board.

Cooperative Program funds from par-

The Record speaks

Indian Springs reads need in Record, helps fill it

Thirty from Indian Springs Baptist Church, Jones County, carried out a mission project in Philippi, West Virginia, in June, 1981, as a result of reading an article in the *Baptist Record*.

The men did finish carpentry on the sanctuary at First Southern Baptist Church, Philippi. The women cooked, and the youths led in a Backyard Bible Club. Garry Meador, high school band director who coordinated the trip, said the *Baptist Record* article that triggered their special interest was about Mississippian John Wade going to be a pastor in Philippi.

He said that project participants became more aware of the need for missions and the need for increased concern for others. "I found a spiritual growth that cannot be explained except to one who has experienced such a trip of service." The thirty traveled by church bus and slept in a trailer and in the church.

Argentina missionaries stay put

Southern Baptist missionaries in Argentina still have no immediate plans for withdrawal in spite of increasing evidence of hostile feelings on the part of the Argentines generally because of the U.S. support for England in the Falkland crisis, according to J. Robert Burtis, chairman of the Argentine mission.

"We are all right, and we're hanging in," Burtis told the *Baptist Record* Tuesday.

Thurmon Bryant, the Foreign Mission Board's area director for Eastern South America, is in Argentina at this time to help in any decisions that

might need to be made. He told the *Baptist Record* that the missionaries are not sensing a need for withdrawal at this time, but there are extensive plans should it become necessary.

The Argentine Baptist leaders are concerned, Burtis explained, and are hoping that the missionaries will be able to remain in the country. Bryant said that there have been isolated instances of coolness on the part of a few Argentine Baptists, but generally they remain supportive.

He said the missionaries "need your concern, your love, and your prayers."

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Southern Baptist Convention—Superdome

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday Night, June 15, 1982

6:15—Brass Ensemble
6:40—Music for Inspiration—The Centurymen, Buryl Red, director
6:15—Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Fort Worth, TX
Scripture—Robert O. Feather, Waco, TX
Prayer—Minette (Mrs. Huber) Drumwright, Little Rock, AR
7:30—Business and Election of Officers
7:40—Bold Mission Thrust Report—Harold C. Bennett, Nashville, TN
7:45—Woman's Missionary Union Report—Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, AL
8:00—Sunday School Board Report—Grady C. Cothen, Nashville, TN
8:20—Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Fort Worth, TX
8:25—Music—The Centurymen, Buryl Red, director
8:39—Home Mission Board Report—William G. Tanner, Atlanta, GA
9:30—Benediction—George H. Fletcher III, Orange, VA

Wednesday Theme: "Develop Believers"

Wednesday Morning, June 16, 1982
9:00—Music for Inspiration—First Baptist Church Choir, Shreveport, LA, Robert L. Sneed, director
Scripture—Martha (Mrs. Gene) Garrison, Oklahoma City, OK
Prayer—Doyal V. Spence, Roanoke, VA
9:45—Committee on Committees Report
9:50—Committee on Boards Report
9:55—Miscellaneous Business
10:10—Brotherhood Commission Report—James A. Smith, Memphis, TN
10:25—Baptist World Alliance Report
10:35—Education Commission Report—Arthur L. Walker Jr., Nashville, TN
10:45—Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report
10:50—Southern Baptist Foundation Report—Hollis E. Johnson III
11:00—Congregational Singing—Al Washburn, Mill Valley, CA
11:00—Business
Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
Election of Officers
11:55—Music—First Baptist Church Choir, Shreveport, LA, Robert L. Sneed, director

12:00—Sermon—William E. Hull, Shreveport, LA
12:30—Benediction—C. W. Farrar, Landrum, SC

No Wednesday Afternoon Session

Wednesday Night, June 16, 1982

7:00—Brass Ensemble
6:30—Music for Inspiration—George Beverly Shea and Kurt Kaiser
7:00—Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Fort Worth, TX
Scripture—Marvin Gibson, Cleveland, TN
Prayer—Pattie (Mrs. Robert Sr.) Dent, Holly Springs, MA
7:15—Presentation of Past SBC Presidents
7:35—SBC Seminars Report
Roy L. Honeycutt Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Russell H. Dilday Jr., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Landrum P. Leavell II, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Randall Lolley, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Milton Ferguson, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and William M. Pinson Jr., Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
8:20—Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Fort Worth, TX
8:30—Foreign Mission Board Report—R. Keith Parks, Richmond, VA
9:30—Benediction—Frances Graton, Oklahoma City, OK

Thursday Theme: "Strengthen Families"

Thursday Morning, June 17, 1982

9:00—Music for Inspiration
A Cappella Choir—William S. May, director
Handbell choir—Talmadge Butler, director
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
9:30—Congregational Singing—Claude H. Rhea Jr., West Palm Beach, FL
Scripture—Darlene (Mrs. E. M.) Koch, Midwest City, OK
Prayer—B. O. Baker, Irving, TX
9:45—Historical Commission Report—Lynn E. May Jr., Nashville, TN
9:55—Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report—James M. Dunn, Washington, DC
10:05—Christian Life Commission Report—Foy Valentine, Nashville, TN
10:15—Stewardship Commission Report—A. R. Fagan, Nashville, TN

10:25—Radio and Television Commission Report—Jimmy R. Allen, Fort Worth, TX

10:40—Congregational Singing—Claude H. Rhea Jr., West Palm Beach, FL

10:45—Business
Resolutions Committee (Final Report)

Miscellaneous Business

12:30—Benediction—Bea (Mrs. Horace) McRae, Lumberton, NC

Thursday Afternoon, June 17, 1982

2:00—Music for Inspiration—Louisiana Singing Minister, Carroll Lowe, director

2:30—Congregational Singing—Connie Ware, Plano, TX

Scripture—James H. Temples, Charlotte, NC

Prayer—Marion C. Barnett, Knoxville, TN

2:45—Business

4:45—Congregational Singing—Connie Ware, Plano, TX

5:00—Benediction—O. S. Hawkins, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Adjourn

No Thursday Evening Session

Convention Officers

Bailey E. Smith, SBC president, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, OK

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, SBC first vice president, Greenville, SC
Don Kim, SBC second vice president; pastor, Berendo Street Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA

Martin Bradley, SBC recording secretary; manager, research services department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, TN

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary; design editor, Sunday School department, Baptist School School Board, Nashville, TN

Harold C. Bennett, SBC treasurer; executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, TN

Wilmer C. Fields, SBC president representative; assistant to the executive secretary and director of public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, TN

William J. Reynolds, SBC music director; associate professor of music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

Southern Baptist Pastors Conference

Sunday Evening, June 13

6:30—Concert of Praise and Proclamation—The Centurymen and Festival Choirs, directed by Buryl Red, New York, NY
7:00—Invocation—Jerry Stovall, head coach, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Welcome—Ed Young
Greetings—Ron Herrod, pastor, First Baptist Church, Kenner, LA
7:15—Congregational Praise—Gary Moore, Pastors Conference music coordinator, and minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Houston, TX
Solo—Jeff Benward, evangelistic singer, Houston, TX
7:25—President's Remarks—Bailey E. Smith, President of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, OK
7:25—President's Remarks—Bailey E. Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, OK
7:45—Congregational Praise—Cliff Barrows, Greenville, SC
Offering Prayer—Chester Swor, author and lecturer, Jackson, MS
Special Music—Willa Dorsey, evangelistic singer, Portland, OR
8:00—Johnny Cash, Hendersonville, TN
Billy Graham, Montreal, NC
9:00—Benediction—J. D. Grey, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA

Monday Morning, June 14

8:15—Morning Praise—Dan Beam, minister of recreation, First Baptist Church, Dallas
9:00—Invocation—Jack Taylor, evangelist, Fort Worth, TX
Congregational Hymn—Gary Moore
9:05—"The Great Beginning" (Genesis 1:1)—Barry Landrum, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, LA
9:30—Congregational Hymn
Special Music—Mary Rose Foster, evangelistic singer, Columbia, SC
9:35—"The Great Commandment" (Exodus 20)—O. S. Hawkins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, FL
10:00—Congregational Singing
Offertory Prayer—Jack Patterson, pastor, Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond, VA
Special Music—Steve Lawson, pianist, Ruston, LA
10:15—"The Great Invitation" (John 3:16)—Charles T. Carter, pastor, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL

10:40—Congregational Hymn
Special Music—Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, AL, Ed Keyes, minister of music, director
Prayer—Horace Hammert, retired executive director, South Carolina Baptist Convention, Columbia, SC

11:00—Special Music—Beverly Terrell, evangelistic singer, Houston, TX

11:10—"The Great Sermon" (Matthew 5)—Adrian Rogers, former president SBC, and pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

11:35—Benediction—Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC

Monday Afternoon, June 14

1:10—Midday Musical Message—
Ladies Ensemble, First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, AL; Zack Young, minister of music, Riverside Baptist Church, River Ridge, LA
1:30—Invocation—Harold Killian, pastor, Earl Street Baptist Church, Greenville, SC
Congregation Praise—Gary Moore
1:35—"The Great Presence" (Acts 2)—James Draper, pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, TX
2:00—Congregational Praise
2:05—Solo
2:15—"The Great Promise" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)—William Tolar, dean, School of Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX
2:40—Congregational Hymn
Offertory Prayer—Gerald Buckley, pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, Natchez, MS
Offering
Solo—Martha Branham, evangelistic singer, Dallas, TX
3:00—Electoral Officers
3:05—Solo—Calvin Marsh, evangelistic singer, Dallas, TX
3:10—"The Great Gift" (1 Corinthians 13)—Bob Werner, pastor, First Baptist Church of Ferguson, St. Louis, MO
3:35—Congregational Singing
3:40—Special Music
3:55—Special Feature—Dennis Agajanian, evangelistic speaker, San Diego, CA

4:04—"The Great Fellowship" (Ephesians 4)—Zig Ziglar, motivational specialist, Dallas, TX

4:30—Benediction—Jimmy Allen, former president of SBC, and president, Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, TX

Monday Evening June 14, 1982

6:30—Triumphant Praise—Texas All-State Youth Choir and Band

6:55—Invocation—John Lee Taylor, pastor, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, TN

Congregational Praise—Gary Moore

7:00—"The Great Confession" (Matthew 16:16)—Tal Bonham, executive director, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Columbus, OH

7:25—Congregational Hymn

Special Music—Texas All-State Youth Choir, Lloyd Hawthorne, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX, director; Texas All-State Youth Band, Gregg Berry, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX, director

7:35—"The Great Sacrifice" (Isaiah 53)—Franklin Paschall, former SBC president, and pastor, First Baptist Church, Nashville, TN

8:00—Congregational Hymn
Offertory Prayer—Kenneth Wayne Fields, Pastors Conference treasurer and pastor, First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, AL

Offering
Special Music—Willa Dorsey

8:10—"The Great Victory" (1 Corinthians 15)—Ron Dunn, evangelist and Bible conference speaker, Irving, TX

8:35—Congregational Singing
Special Music—Sanctuary Choir, Second Baptist Church, Houston, TX

8:45—"The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20)—Stephen Olford, evangelist and president of Encounter Ministries, Inc., Wheaton, IL

9:10—Introduction of Pastors Conference officers 1982-83

Benediction—New President of Pastors Conference

Officers:

President—Ed Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston, TX

Vice President—Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, AL

Treasurer—Kenneth Wayne Fields, pastor, First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, AL

Music Coordinator—Gary Moore, minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Houston, TX

SBC religious educators rearrange programming

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Faith, unity and mission will be the focus of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Educators Association, June 13-14, in the New Orleans Marriott Hotel.

The meeting is one of several related meetings preceding the Southern

Convention, June 15-17, in the Louisiana Superdome.

The association will cooperate with the SBC Pastors' Conference and the SBC Order of Business Committee by participating in an evangelistic rally in the Superdome on Sunday, June 13. The rally will feature Billy Graham as main speaker.

"We chose to go along with the programming and include participation in the evangelistic rally," Charles Gwaltney, SBREA president, said. "We normally start our program on Sunday evening, and had already completed the programming when

they contacted us about participating in the rally."

"We regret the circumstances, but we re-arranged our programming. We feel the effort (rally) is a good effort and we are cooperating," he added.

The first session of SBREA will center on faith development and will deal with the growth of the faith of individual religious educators.

The second session will concern staff unity, because for a subordinate staff person "one of the greatest problems faced is that of staff unity," Gwaltney said, adding that pressures from his direction are "extreme on the religious educator."

"We are planning to have audience participation, and will have presentations by professional guidance people, religious educators and a pastor," he added.

The concluding session will feature a celebration of worship and inspiration, in which ministers of education will give personal testimonies about God's activities in their lives.

"They will not be giving church growth statistics, but will be giving very personal testimonies about God's leadership in their lives," he said.

During the annual SBREA luncheon at noon Monday, the association will make distinguished leadership awards, to retired educators who have made significant contributions to RE work.

Campus ministers will discuss possible areas of tension

Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will be meeting June 13-14 at St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans. Featured speakers include Pope Duncan, Bill Cohan, and Howard Foshee.

Duncan, president of Stetson University, will speak on the topic "Needs for ministering to faculty and possible future areas of positive and negative tension between campus ministry and

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Seventeen veteran Southern Baptist evangelists will be honored during the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (CSBE) June 16.

The meeting is one of several scheduled in conjunction with the 1982 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15-17 in the Louisiana Superdome.

The veteran evangelists, to be honored during a 6 p.m. banquet in the Hilton Hotel, include Sam Allen, Lubbock, Texas; Hyman Appelman, Kansas City, Mo.; Porter Barrington, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Clifton Brandon, Longview, Texas; G. P. Comer, Dallas; E. J. Daniel, Orlando, Fla.; Eddie Lieberman, Greenville, S.C.; Also, Eddie Martin, Lancaster, Pa.; Angel Martinez, Fort Smith, Ark.; Percy Ray, Myrtle, Miss.; Jack Stanton, Bolivar, Mo.; Steve Taylor, Greenville, S.C.; John Tierney, Greenville, S.C.; J. Oscar Wells, Bethany, Okla., and Grady Wilson, Montreal, N. C.

The veterans will be presented with a plaque of appreciation and a color photograph of themselves and denominational leaders, including SBC President Bailey E. Smith.

Bobby Sunderland, director of mass evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Stan Coffey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N. M., will emcee the banquet.

Cohan, former undersecretary of education, will speak on "The case for separation of state and church in higher education—alternatives for campus ministers."

Foshee, director of Christian development division at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak on "The future direction of national student ministries."

The general session of the CSBE will be from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., and will include addresses by evangelists Larry Taylor of San Antonio, Texas; Manley Beasley of Euless, Texas; James Robison of Hurst, Texas, and J. Harold Smith of Orlando, Fla.

Also to participate are Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala.; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., and past president of the SBC, and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Bible Studies in Dallas.

Music will be led by Chuck Kennedy of Florissant, Mo., music director for the conference and Lee Castro of Hermitage, Tenn., assistant music director. Participants include the McKay-Cole Heirborn group of Fort Worth, Texas; Rhonda Robison of Hurst; Pat Roper of Greenville, S.C.; Eddie and Alice Smith of Houston; Richard Vaughn of Lumberton, Texas, and Sandee Williams of Jacksonville, Fla.

Officers of the conference are Fred Gage, of Fort Worth, president; Ed Stalnecker of Jacksonville, Fla., vice president; Kennedy, music director; Castro, assistant music director, and Don Womack of Memphis, Tenn., executive director.

Missions directors themselves will be on their own program

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Skills development and the sharing of key ideas will be featured in the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, June 13-14 at the Gateway Hotel in New Orleans.

Conference president Cline Borders, who is director of missions for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, said the program comes out of his having had the opportunity to talk with a number of his peers. "This gave me a feel for the frustrations the men are having and some of the problems they are facing."

He added: "This is the first time we have featured the director of missions himself and given him the opportunity to share some key idea . . . something which has worked in his association. We have asked 12 of them to share something which has helped them tremendously in their associations."

Bailey Smith names key SBC committee leaders

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)—Bailey E. Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has named Homer G. Lindsey Jr. as chairman of the committee on committees and Norris Sydnor Jr. as chairman of the resolutions committee.

Lindsey, a former president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., and Sydnor is the bivocational pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Oxon Hill, Md., a mission of Seabrook Baptist Church in Seabrook, Md. Proposed resolutions may be sent to Sydnor at 10605 Parrish Lane, Mitchellville, Md. 20716.

Sydnor also is vice president for development for Booker T. Washington Foundation in Washington, D. C., a research and development organization for minority business enterprise.

Sydnor, who is black, sees his appointment as a sign of Smith's progressive spirit in the SBC presidency. While he sees no new issues surfacing for the convention, he anticipates theological issues rising. "It would be wrong to presuppose or speculate what they would be," he said.

Smith announced the appointments in a telephone interview with Baptist Press, but declined to reveal the other members of either committee until the first day of the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans, June 15.

"I will not release them (the appointments)," Smith told Baptist Press. "There is no reason I should; I am not required to do so."

His decision not to release the names this year will "avoid misuse" of the list, he said.

Smith added the early release of the list in 1981 was the first time the nominations had been made available before the first day's Convention Bulletin.

Under the SBC constitution and bylaws, the president—in conference

with the two vice presidents—names the committee on committees and the resolutions committee. The appointment authority is one of the few real powers an SBC president possesses.

The committee on committees, composed of two representatives from each qualified state convention, nominates persons to serve on any special committee authorized during the convention. Its most important function, however, is appointment of the committee on boards, which in turn nominates persons to serve as trustees of the SBC agencies and institutions.

The bylaws specify the president shall appoint the committee on committees at least a month before the annual meeting of the convention, and that the names shall be published in the first issue of the Convention Bulletin.

The bylaws say the committee on resolutions, consisting of 10 members, three of whom shall be members of the SBC Executive Committee, shall be appointed at least 60 days before the convention. Bylaw 22 does not specify how the names of those appointed shall be made public.

Bylaw 22 also specifies that copies of

proposed resolutions be submitted to the committee chairperson at least 30 days before the convention "in order to make possible more thorough consideration and to expedite the committee's work."

While the bylaw says the president shall appoint the two committees "in conference with" the two vice presidents, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., first vice president, says she only has had one communication from Smith concerning the two committees.

She told the *Baptist Standard*, news journal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, that she received a letter in late February from Smith asking if she had any suggestions. She said she was requested to send the suggestions "by return mail."

Gregory did so, she said, and had no further contact from Smith. She was informed of the appointments of Lindsey and Sydnor by the Standard.

Smith said later he contacted her April 30 to tell her of the nominations.

Don Kim, pastor of Berendo Street (Korea) Baptist Church in Los

Angeles, was in Brazil and unavailable for comment.

Midwestern trustees talk about money

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Faculty and financial matters dominated discussion during the annual meeting of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees April 19-20.

N. Larry Baker, associate professor of Christian ethics since 1978, and acting academic dean, was unanimously elected academic dean, effective Aug. 1, 1982, succeeding John Howell who requested to be relieved of his administrative responsibilities in February 1982, in order to return full-time to the classroom and writing.

A 1982-83 budget of \$2,478,587, a 13.4 percent increase, was adopted to provide for expanded programs of off-campus centers, staff and faculty salary increases, faculty additions and the establishment of an office of institutional development.

In other areas, trustees:

Physicians, dentists plan Baptist fellowship

The organizational meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship will take place May 20 at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

The program begins at 6:30 at the church and includes a banquet, special music and a missions challenge by John Tarpley, medical missionary to Ogmoboso, Nigeria, serving on the surgical staff of John Hopkins University in Baltimore while on furlough.

Musicians for the meeting will be John and Kathy McNair. He is a medical missionary now assigned to Uruguay. They are from Magee.

John Bowling of Tupelo who retired recently from six weeks as a medical missions volunteer at the Baptist Hos-

Acknowledged the projected retirement of George D. Thomason, professor of New Testament and Greek, effective July 31, 1982, and authorized his appointment as senior professor, a special post created by the seminary to provide continuing opportunities for service and teaching by retiring faculty members;

Approved the change in nomenclature of the seminary diploma program to that of associate degrees—associate of divinity and associate of religious education.

Acknowledged the appointment of John Havlik of the Home Mission Board as visiting professor of evangelism for 1982-83;

Approved the appointment of Sam T. Switzer, director of financial services at Midwestern since July, 1981, as seminary business manager.

In other areas, trustees:

Doug Day is coordinator

(Continued from page 1) participating state conventions, including \$20,000 from Mississippi in 1982, will go toward production of the tapes, said Day. Luke Williams, executive vice president of the RTVC will supervise the work.

He will assist the Ad Hoc Committee in production and planning, develop promotional plans for VTS and be liaison among the agencies and participating state conventions.

Day said that over the next couple of years 100 tapes are to be added to the service. "I will be involved in the coordination of the agencies and the commission as they produce those tapes," he said. He will also work with the organizations in producing utilization guides for churches.

Day said that one goal of the Committee is to have 10,000 churches and 1,000 associations equipped with video tape equipment. He said that some churches will ultimately want to begin

producing their own video tapes for training.

As to the future of video tape services within the Southern Baptist Convention, Day said "I think what we'll finally see is how effectively we meet the needs of local churches."

Day is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and studied at Mississippi State, Southwestern Seminary, and Memphis State Law School.

He is married to Jean East Day.

They have two children, Michael Douglas, and Laura Ashlyn.

Day has served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Disaster Relief Task Force and was area Brotherhood coordinator.

Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.—Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain).

Day

Speaker for the dedication service will be James Buie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Byram. He is a former pastor of Woodville Heights.

The new worship center seats 930 and includes a choir suite and offices. Savell said the church held a Together We Build campaign raising \$375,000 toward the total projected cost of \$650,000. Other aspects of the total project include renovating the old sanctuary and parking and landscaping work.

No evening service is planned for May 16.

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it moves stones, it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity and truth accomplishes no victories without it.—Bulwer-Lytton.

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Homecomings

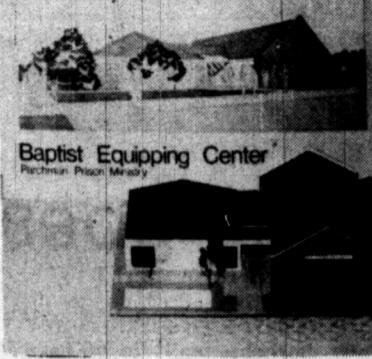
First Baptist Church, State Line, will observe homecoming, Sunday, June 6. John L. Walker, pastor of First Church, Lucedale, will be morning speaker. The afternoon will feature members giving testimonies and special music. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall will follow the morning service according to Mrs. Mary Culpepper, chairman of homecoming activities. Roy Garrison is pastor.

Homecoming day will be observed at Pine Hill Baptist church, Rt. 2, Enterprise, Clarke County on Sunday, May 16. Former pastor, O. H. Pett will be the guest speaker. Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall at noon. James (Pete) Pearson is pastor.

Union Baptist Church, Mayton, Rankin County, will celebrate homecoming on May 16. Services will begin at 10:45 a.m. David Patrick will deliver the morning message. Dinner will be served. Afternoon singing will feature The Singing Policemen.

First, Lambert will hold homecoming on May 23, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Randy Hales, former member and pastor of Greenlaw Baptist Church, Kentwood, La., will be guest speaker. Jimmy Smith, former music director from Rulerville, will lead the music.

Lunch will be served at the church. Pastor is Wayne Long.



Equipping Center construction begins at Parchman

Groundbreaking for the Baptist Equipping Center for the Parchman Prison Ministry will be May 27 at 11 a.m.

The property is located 3/4 of a mile east of the main gate of the Mississippi State

Penitentiary at Parchman, on Highway

32. An architect's model of the center is

pictured. Architect is Charles D. Loper

who works with Copeland and Johns in

Jackson and is donating his services.

Those interested in helping the ministry

in its building project, may contact the

volunteer coordinator, Max A. Hodges, a

lay member of Fairview Baptist Church,

Sunflower County, phone 887-2197, or

the associational office, Box 646,

Moorhead, Miss. 38761, phone 246-

8404.

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further contact from Smith. She was

informed of the appointments of

Lindsey and Sydnor by the Standard.

Sydnor said later he contacted her

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for comment.

Radio-TV Sunday will be May 16

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—On May 16

Southern Baptists will turn their attention to the denomination's ministry in electronic media with the 27th observance of Radio and Television Commission Sunday.

Southern Baptists have seen that ministry grow since the Radio and Television Commission's formation in 1941, when its only program, "The Baptist Hour," was heard on 17 radio stations. Currently, the RTVC's, 11 radio and four television productions are aired 6,242 times each week on 4,375 radio and television stations, plus an additional 2,214 airings weekly on cable systems and other outlets.

More than 183,000 people responded by mail to RTVC programs last year, up five-and-a-half per cent from last year. Of those responding, 10,635 asked for and received spiritual counseling. After counseling, 1,795 listeners and viewers wrote back to say they had made faith decisions, either to accept Christ or reaffirm a commitment to him.

Send for this model, put it on and

wear it in the privacy of your own

home. It will show you how tiny

hearing help can be. It is not a real

hearing aid and it's yours to keep free.

The actual aid weighs less than a

fourth of an ounce, and it's all at a

level, in one unit.

These models are free, so we suggest

you write for yours now. Again, we

repeat, there is no cost, and certainly

no obligation. All hearing problems

are not alike and some cannot be

helped by a hearing aid but many can.

So, send for your free model now.

Thousands have already been mailed,

so be sure to write today to

Department 4600, Beltone Electronics

Corp., 4201 West Victoria Street,

Chicago, Illinois 60646.

Calvary Baptist Church Jackson

has a brick home three bedrooms one bath

available to Christian couple in exchange for security assistance Contact Don Witzel 1300 West Capitol St. Jackson, MS 39203 Telephone 354-1300

Afraid You're Going Deaf?

Chicago, Ill.—A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of one of the smallest Beltone aids of its kind will be given absolutely free to anyone who sends for this free model now.

Send for this model, put it on and wear it in the privacy of your own home. It will show you how tiny hearing help can be. It is not a real hearing aid and it's yours to keep free. The actual aid weighs less than a fourth of an ounce, and it's all at a level, in one unit.

These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. All hearing problems are not alike and some cannot be helped by a hearing aid but many can. So, send for your free model now. Thousands have already been mailed, so be sure to write today to Department 4600, Beltone Electronics Corp., 4201 West Victoria Street, Chicago, Illinois 60646.



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Editorials . . .

The postage battle goes on

The postage battle goes on, and it seems to have become more and more an uphill fight. Congress continues to hold out the possibility that there will be an effort to roll back the postage prices for 1982 by restoring at least some portion of a subsidy that was left out of the second continuing resolution by which the nation's government was financed from January through March. We have no 1982 budget as yet, by the way. The government is being run now by the third continuing resolution. That will carry us through June. By that time there will be no need to try to draft a budget for this year, because there will be only one quarter of the fiscal year left. So a fourth continuing resolution will keep us going.

Since the third continuing resolution has already been adopted, a new measure will be necessary to get the postage situation straightened out. It is being proposed as an amendment to what will be called an emergency supplemental bill.

Sen. Quentin Burdick of North Dakota is said to be ready to submit the amendment. It is hoped he can get it attached to the emergency supplemental bill while it is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. There were

56 senators set to co-sponsor such an amendment to the third continuing resolution, but somebody talked Burdick out of submitting it at that time for fear of presidential veto.

Both of Mississippi's senators are members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. This committee will be a vital cog in what happens to the emergency supplemental bill. The *Baptist Record* has been in touch with Sen. Thad Cochran personally, and he has assured us of his support. Our lobbying contacts in Washington tell us that indeed he is being very supportive.

We have not been able to be in touch with Sen. John Stennis personally, but we have been in contact with his office several times by telephone and by letter. We have been assured that he is very supportive of our efforts and will be active in seeking to take care of the need.

In addition, in response to suggestions by the lobbying agency, we have spent a great deal of time contacting the editors in states where there are other key senators on the appropriations committee, and they have followed through as is evidenced by copies of material sent back to the

Baptist Record.

So we have tried as hard as we know how—harder actually, for we have had the expert advice of a lobbying agency. The lobbying operation is working to help Scholastic publications, a nationwide operation, and they invited us to go along in order that our efforts might support their cause.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee has maintained a keen interest in the situation and has graciously accepted proposals that we wait until there is settlement before we take action on subscription rates. We didn't want to raise rates and then find that it hadn't been necessary.

Once again, it must be noted that we are not overjoyed at the idea of accepting a governmental subsidy. A program was set up in 1971 to phase out a major portion of such subsidizing, and it was to come to its conclusion in 1987. We are simply calling on the government to keep its word on the phase-out operation.

The figures involved are negligible compared to the over-all budget picture. We would have stayed on schedule with an additional appropriation of \$77 million, or a total of \$696

million, for 1982. As it was, we went immediately to the 1987 subsidy figure of \$619 million on Jan. 10. Second-class, nonprofit mailing costs increased by about 300 percent instantaneously. That happened because Congress and the President could not agree on a budget in November of last year. Now the President is proposing a level of \$500 million instead of the present \$619 million for 1983. Since postage rates increased 300 percent with the loss of \$77 million, one can imagine what they would be with the loss of an additional \$119 million.

We do not mind paying our own way, as what we are doing now is called. Some post offices say we (the non-profit mailers) are the best source of income they have. Surely we are doing our best to save them work and at the same time save as much money as we can. We are pre-sorting by route carriers, but that is complicated and is causing some amount of confusion in some post offices.

In the meantime, we will continue the fight until we win or get beat. We want our subscribers to know that if we have to raise prices, we tried desperately hard to avoid it.

Continued battle against pornography

Fresh troops have picked up the battle against pornography in Mississippi that was begun last year, and renewed determination is evident in the effort to seek legislation against the sale of such material in the state.

Last year Jackson attorney Jacqueline Smith Pierce began a fight in which she was the prime contestant and instigated the introduction of an anti-pornography measure in the Senate under the sponsorship of Wayne Burkes of Bolton. The measure was introduced late, however, due to all of the actions necessary to get it underway; and it was not reported out of committee.

This year the effort is already underway, and new strength has come onto the field in such personages as Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, who retired as head of Mississippi's largest industry, Mississippi Chemical Corporation, and who is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and such organizations as the Mississ

issippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

The *Baptist Record*, active in last year's effort, applauds Mrs. Pierce for her determination, is happy to see Cooper and Paul Jones of the Christian Action Commission beginning to forge an effective campaign operation that will command results, and pledges its continued support in the endeavor to rid the state of obnoxious material.

As mentioned before, this writer has not seen a great evidence of pornography for sale. At local convenience stores some of the better known national magazines are behind the counters with only their nameplates showing. It has been noted that legislation doing away with this sort of thing will be difficult to attain.

There is good reason why I am not familiar with the places where pornography is sold openly. I don't know where they are and wouldn't go if I did. Law enforcement officials, however, are quick to point out that there are

such places. Whether or not they are prevalent is beside the point. If there is one there could be 1,000. And the danger is that those of us who are not familiar with them will let our lack of knowledge lull us into inactivity, and they will continue right on and even proliferate.

If such material were sold openly and would be determined to be bad for those of us who wouldn't buy it anyway, then it is just as bad for those who will buy it wherever it is sold. And they will find the places.

There is no question in anyone's mind but that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was never intended to protect the purveyors of filth. Yet that will be the protection that such merchants will stand behind, and they will get away with it unless the rest of us are alert and ready to go to battle with them.

The evidence seems to be mounting that in some instances people do strange things under the influence of

pornography. It is not an easy fight; but it is one that must be waged, and the battle must continue until the anti-pornography forces are victorious.

But, it is not over even then. The forces that would keep pornography from resurfacing once it was gone would have to be constantly alert.

An ad hoc committee, fashioned by Cooper, is hoping to get pornographic material wiped off store shelves by legislative action and keep it off by maintaining a careful watch. A day-long conference on pornography legislation was held last week at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, with legislative experts from Dallas, Texas; Atlanta, Ga., and Phoenix, Ariz. on hand as speakers. The group means business and is backing its intentions with determination.

There were 64 persons present from 19 Mississippi cities. Including the five program personalities, there were 69 present. They will be heard from—DTM

on a Missouri college campus. This is a fault of the court, not the Constitution.

The Constitution says that Congress shall make no law regarding the establishment of a religion nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

The Supreme Court has correctly ruled that the Constitution forbids a school principal or a school board or a school teacher to tell a child that he has to pray and what to say when he does. In other words, there can be no official connection with or sponsorship of the prayer times. But the children should be able to pray all they want to as the situation now is, alone and in groups. If they can't, something is wrong; but another constitutional amendment is not going to correct it.

The bride, a slender, brown-eyed

brunette, wore lavender chiffon. A Cartagena native, she has been a widow since her husband, Robert, died in 1955.

Tall, warm, friendly Wallace, who

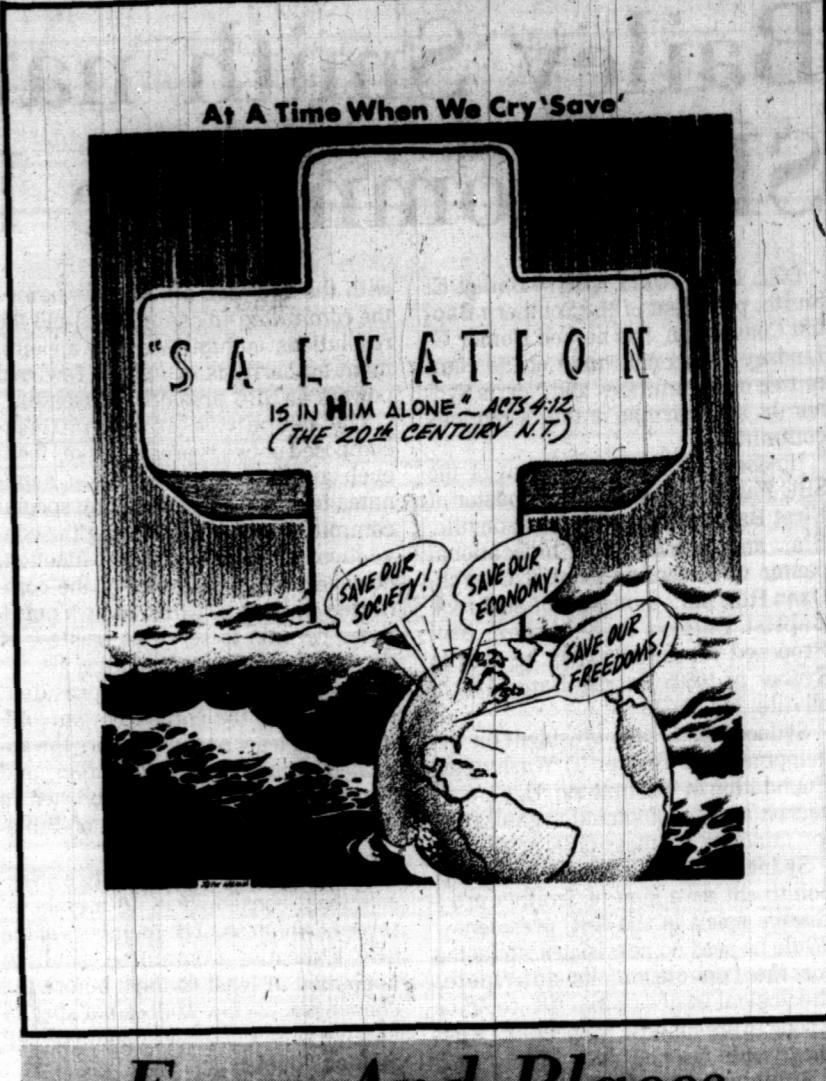
has no children, said, "I'll have to learn to be a father, grandfather (to five), and father-in-law all at once!" His blue eyes lighted with obvious pleasure. Elaine, his wife, died in early 1980. (Her maiden name, by the way, was Brown.) In January of this year he retired from the state department of education, where he was coordinator of accreditation. A few days later, he began work as distributor for Ideal Ink, books and other Successful Living Products, in a four-state territory. Born in Clark County, he grew up in Meridian.

Both Louise and Wallace like to travel. This week they are in Eureka Springs, Ark., on their honeymoon. They haven't decided if they will live at his house on 5526 Pine Lane Drive or at her house, 1605 Linden Place in Belhaven. (His house is full of books, I understand, and hers is full of sewing.)

Also they must decide "which church." He's a member of First Baptist Jackson, and she of Woodland Hills. Both sing in choir; she teaches Sunday School.

Wallace told me, "I had asked the Lord to send me someone who loved him first, and who loved me. And he did. I believe in letting him make the choices. He always gives us the best if we let him do the choosing."

And Louise added, "Yes, God wants the best for his children. I know he chose the best for me!"



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

A time for a wedding

To everything there is a season, and a time . . . a time to laugh . . . a time to embrace . . . a time to love . . . (Eccles. 3:1, 4, 5, 8).

"Are you coming to the wedding?" Louise Brown asked me.

"Whose wedding?"

When she said, "Mine," you honestly could have knocked me over with a feather. Even though I saw her with Wallace Merrill at Dan and Mera Hall's when we looked at Mary Cannon's Holy Land slides, I had remained in the dark about those two.

I've known Louise Brown over 20 years; she worked in the Baptist Building with tracts and printing, Brotherhood, music, switchboard. . . Now she's business manager for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary center on Lynch Street.

I first met Wallace Merrill Dec. 19, 1981, at the Jackson airport. He was enroute to Israel with the same tour group as I—and Louise. They met that day for the first time, too. Last Saturday, May 8, they got married at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, James Scirratti, pastor, officiating.

Since it was Mother's Day weekend, I missed the wedding (with regret) but I heard about it. Louise's attendants were her three daughters, Penny Adams of Little Rock, Ark.; Weeta West of Huntsville, Ala.; and Peggy Clower of Dallas, Tex. Weeta sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "We'll Walk with God." Glenn Merrill of Mobile, Wallace's brother, was best man.

The bride, a slender, brown-eyed

brunette, wore lavender chiffon. A Cartagena native, she has been a widow since her husband, Robert, died in 1955.

Tall, warm, friendly Wallace, who

has no children, said, "I'll have to learn to be a father, grandfather (to five), and father-in-law all at once!" His blue eyes lighted with obvious pleasure. Elaine, his wife, died in early 1980. (Her maiden name, by the way, was Brown.) In January of this year he retired from the state department of education, where he was coordinator of accreditation. A few days later, he began work as distributor for Ideal Ink, books and other Successful Living Products, in a four-state territory. Born in Clark County, he grew up in Meridian.

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And Louise added, "Yes, God wants the best for his children. I know he chose the best for me!"

Wallace and Louise are a happy couple.

Would you believe they wasted five days of our ten-day tour before they really noticed each other? Cupid's arrow hit her on Christmas Eve, the night we sang at Manger Square in Bethlehem. As we shoved and angled our way across the crowd, Louise got separated from our line-up. For a bit she was frightened, she said, but then she spied Wallace's white hair above the crowd. "And I wasn't lost any longer."

Louise Brown and Wallace Merrill

He first took note of her in Bethlehem, "sitting on the couch at Ruth Van Martin's house." The tour group planned to give Ruth, volunteer mission worker, a dress for Christmas. Louise picked it out and Wallace went along to handle the monetary transaction. (Myrna Loy Hedgepath had introduced the couple, and I suspect she engineered the shopping excursion "accidentally on purpose." Mary Cannon went along, too, but even though she's been a missionary to Japan and is now on the staff of the Home Mission Board, it looks to me like she was not too strict a chaperone.)

Wallace was constantly on the alert for opportunities to witness—on the plane and in various cities. When he and Louise met a young couple from Norway and Australia, at the marketplace in Jerusalem's Old City, they invited them to be their guests for lunch at the National Palace Hotel and at our Christmas party there; he shared with them his Christian testimony (the young man from Norway claimed to be an agnostic).

Probably I was not aware of the developing romance because I was on Bus No. 2 and they were on Bus No. 1. (My attention must have been elsewhere when they were gathering seashells by the Mediterranean.) Teen-agers on their bus called them Grandma and Grandpa and another couple, Joan and Chuck Morse of Louisiana, Mama and Papa. Back in Jackson, Louise cooked a dinner for Wallace and they continued to see each other. On March 19, during a convention on the Gulf Coast, they set the wedding date.

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Book Reviews

RIDGECREST, MOUNTAIN OF FAITH by Kenneth McAnear (Broadman, paper, 96 pp., \$3.50) This year, 1982, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center celebrates its 75th anniversary, and Ken McAnear, manager of the Conference Center, has written this updated history of it. The book includes black and white photographs of the buildings at various times in the past, so that the stages of change—new buildings or renovated ones—are shown. McAnear has done a good job of telling the exciting story of a place that has touched the lives of thousands. Appendices include tributes to James H. Tucker, the lawyer who selected the site, to Bernard W. Spilman, and Willard K. Weeks, past managers of the "assembly." Camp Crestridge for Boys; Camp Crestridge for Girls; Ridgecrest employees; and Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Volunteer summer staffers have worked at Ridgecrest every year since 1919.—AWM

ERDMAN'S HANDBOOK TO THE WORLD RELIGIONS (Wm. B. Erdmann, 447 pp., \$21.95) Fifty specialists from many different countries prepared this comprehensive introduction and guide to the religions of the world, past and present. Over 200 photographs, 100 in full color, and numerous charts and maps illustrate the text. Sections include The Development of Religion, The Ancient Religions (Egypt, Greece, Rome, Northern Europe), The Primal Religions; Living Religions of the East (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Parus, Sikhs), People of A Book (Judaism, Islam); Religion; or the Fulfillment of Religion? (Christianity). This valuable reference book has an index, plus a Rapid Fact-finder—alphabetized list of religious terms and personalities, with brief definitions or descriptions. Not only is the book beautiful, it is also easy to read, clear, and objective.—AWM

Smith credits beliefs . . .

(Continued from page 1)

mony I was able to bring."

The harmony was brought about, he says, because the "moderates" thought I wasn't too radical, and the conservatives know I am an evangelistic, soul-winning, Bible believing person . . . who believes in the infallible, inerrant word of God."

Recently controversy has revolved around the issue of biblical inerrancy, and the overt aim of one faction to gain control of denominational machinery—including the presidency and its appointive powers—in an effort to enforce adherence to inerrancy as the rest of denominational loyalty.

Smith defined inerrancy as believing the original Bible manuscripts are literally true and without error. "I believe God has given us exactly what he wants us to give. It was given inerrantly. I even believe God has protected the translations and has given us his perfect word."

Smith added that "inerrancy is not a side issue. It is a very vital issue. It doesn't need to be a club to hit people with, but it is a vital commitment."

The SBC in Los Angeles "voted we believe the Bible is inerrant," by adopting a motion proposed by former SBC president Herschell Hobbs of Oklahoma City, reaffirming the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, with Hobbs' explanation that "the Bible is truth without any mixture of error" included in the minutes.

"So the denomination believes in inerrancy. Those who believe in inerrancy are not exceptional; it is the ones who do not who are abnormal," Smith said.

Reinforcing his comment that inerrancy is a vital issue, Smith noted: "It is an error to say that we don't need to worry about the Bible, but about missions. We will have no missions if the Bible is full of errors. If Genesis One could be fictitious, so could John 3:16, or the Great Commission. We must believe it ALL. I do."

He commented on the "new conservative effort and mood" within the denomination, and said: "I wish everybody in the SBC believed in inerrancy. I wish there were some way by which we could assure that no professor in our seminaries and colleges would believe otherwise."

The president said: "We have men in high de-

partment posts who believe in inerrancy, but won't use the word because they think it will give credibility to some people they don't like. I think that is immature of them. If they believe it, they ought to be willing to say they believe it."

"Inerrancy is what we believe; we went on record saying that is our belief, although we did not use that word. I don't believe the word needs to be included in the Baptist Faith and Message (statement). It is good enough. But it needs to be enforced."

He explained that he meant by "enforcement" that "we ought to instruct our agencies to abide by the action, but then leave it at a gentlemen's agreement. It would be an honor system, and anyone who could not believe what we believe ought to have the integrity not to accept a post in our denomination."

He went further and noted that "we ought to deal with the matter and if there is a professor who refuses to abide by the statement, he ought to be dismissed."

Smith added: "Maybe Baptists have become too

loose in interpreting how we abide by the statement.

I have been told we cannot get qualified men (to teach) if we do abide by it. I think we can. I think we

Names In The News. . .



MEMBERS OF BEAM (Baptist Education Advance in Mississippi), who represent the Baptist colleges in the state, recently met on the campus of Mississippi College with a subcommittee of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission to discuss ways in which the Commission can assist admissions officers in obtaining names of Baptist students. RORY LEE, (left), dean of admissions at Mississippi College, with commission members W. R. BURRIS, Jackson, and LEON YOUNG, Lauderdale County, as ROBERT WALL, director of church relations at Mississippi College, listens.

Corinth Baptist Church, Tallahatchie County, ordained Frank M. Roberson to the gospel ministry April 25 at 2:30 p.m., at the request of Shiloh Baptist Church, Montgomery County. Those on program for the ordination service included Joe Young, pastor at Paul; Matthew L. Greer, Corinth pastor who sang "Wherever He Leads I'll Go," and presented the Bible; Donald O'Quin, pastor of First Church, Charleston; Jerry Gray, director of missions, Riverside and Tallahatchie associations; Gerald Shook, Paynes pastor; and Nolan Houston, director of missions, Carroll and Montgomery counties. Shiloh has called Roberson as pastor.

BILLY BIGLANE of Natchez, a radiologic technology student at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, and **JULIE GIBSON** of Oxford, a medical technology student at MBMC, were selected as Mr. and Mrs. MBMC. Each year students from the four health related schools at MBMC—medical technology, radiologic technology, respiratory therapy and practical nursing—select students from their school as candidates for this honor. The candidates are interviewed by judges, and the winners are announced during Student Night. Mr. and Mrs. (or Miss) MBMC are selected on the basis of scholastic and leadership qualities.

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Staff Changes

Sam Simmons has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Spur, Texas. He and his wife Trish will be on the field following his graduation from Mid - America Seminary in May. Simmons has been serving as pastor of Hayes Crossing Baptist Mission, Sardis, Miss.

First, Leakesville has called Mark Walker as full time minister of music.

Following a four-month interim pastorate, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Jackson, called the interim pastor, **Phil McCarty**, Mississippi College faculty member, as pastor, as noted in the **Baptist Record** issue of April 29. McCarty, however, declined the call. He will remain as a full-time professor of Bible and religious education at Mississippi College.

Mrs. Donald (Linda) Brent is the new secretary to the pastor, Kermit McGregor, at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. She is a native of Louisville, Miss. Her husband from Natchez, a licensed minister of music, will enter Mississippi College this summer. She is a graduate of Clarke College and Miss. State University. The Brents have two children, Donna, 3, and Michael, 1.

Eddie Davidson is the new pastor of Agricola Church, George County.

Stephen J. Huber has accepted a call to the pastorate of Shivers Baptist Church, Simpson Association. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. He served as a summer worker on the staff of First Baptist Church, Grenada, in 1981. Huber is married to the former Ann Bonner, Grenada, graduate of New Orleans Seminary with a Master of Religious Education degree, and teacher at Kirk Academy in Grenada. The Hubers have one son, Robert.

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Friendship to mark 25th anniversary

Friendship Baptist Church, Grenada, will be having its 25th anniversary May 30. Bringing the message will be Russell Scruggs, a former pastor, and leading the music will be Tommy Gillon, present minister of music.

Along with the regular church program, there will be dinner, special music by "Trinity," and other afternoon activities in celebration of "Hallelujah Day."

John Warren Steen, Jr., former Mississippian, will direct the Christian Writers' Workshop, June 26-29, on the campus of Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., where aspiring writers can meet editors and publishers. Featured speakers will be James C. Bryant from Mercer University in Georgia and Walton Thomas Conn, attorney with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Bryant will deal with ways to get published and Conn will help participants understand the new copyright laws. Steen will be assisted by his wife, Dorothy Liphim Steen, formerly of Jackson. To obtain more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Steen at 6511 Cypresswood Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37205.

William Cameron Townsend, 84, founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, died April 23 of leukemia in a Lancaster, S.C., hospital.

Ruth Smith, secretary at First, Grenada, has completed requirements for the Advanced Level of Church Secretaries Certification.

Stanley H. Bryan, native of Tupelo, has been named physical plant superintendent at

Bryan as assistant to the Superintendent of Maintenance. He will continue studies as a part-time student in the School of Christian Training. He recently began serving as pastor of Tunica Hills Baptist Church, Tunica, La. He and his wife Barbara have five daughters. He attended Blue Mountain College.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—**Norman Jameson**, Baptist Press feature editor since 1977, will become assistant director of news and information services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective July 1.

Jameson, 29, will coordinate all news and information services at Southwestern. The newly created position is in the office of public affairs, directed by John E. Seelig.

Jim Hill of Laurel has entered full time evangelism and will be associate evangelist with Danny Lafferty of Ocean Springs. Hill has served as pastor for seven years and as associate pastor and youth director for three years. He is available for revivals, Bible studies, conferences, retreats, and church outreach evangelism campaigns. He and his family live at Rt. 5, Box 433A, Laurel, Miss. 39440 (phone 601/729-2759).

Don Harris, minister of music at the Galilee Baptist Church, Gloster, has also begun serving the Hux Baptist Church in Wilkinson County as pastor, preaching there on first and third Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. The former pastor at Hux, Burnett Caraway, resigned recently.

West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc has called James Francis, Jr. of Tupelo as music and youth director. He has been serving since January on an interim basis: He holds the bachelor of music education degree from Mississippi College and the master of church music degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Francis has served as youth and music director in Woodville Heights Church, Jackson; First Church, Marks; and Memorial Church, Grapetown, Texas.

First, Leakesville has called Mark Walker as full time minister of music.

Glenn Wiley Abel, a native of Belzoni, has accepted the pastorate of 38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

A graduate of Mississippi College and Golden Gate Seminary, Abel is working on a doctoral degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

He is a former pastor of churches in Savannah, Ga. and Hickory, Miss. He served as minister of youth at churches in Greenwood, Sardis and Dublin, Calif. He served on the executive committee of Volunteer Chaplains. Abel is married to the former Ann Kent of Greenwood and they have two daughters, Amanda and Stephanie.

Ted Baptist Church (Smith): May 6-21; Billy Ray Smith, pastor at Burns, evangelist; Onita Cockrell and da Mae Brown, church pianist and organ leader, leading the music; John E. Barrow, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with dinner at the church, services nightly thereafter, 7:30 p.m.

West Side, Macon (Noxubee): May 14-16; Joe Royalty, evangelist; services Fri.-Sat. at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 1 a.m. and 7 p.m.; lunch served at noon on Sunday; John Burkes, supply pastor.

Enon (Jasper): June 6-9: Ed Holloman, pastor, Corinth Church, evangelist; Bill and Laverne Maddox, in charge of the music; Artis Brewer, pastor; June 6, homecoming day with lunch at the church; services Sun.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

Highland Church, Tishomingo: May 23-28; at 7 p.m.; Ronnie Mitchell, Center Hill Church, Hamilton, evangelist; Gerald Waldrop, minister of music at Randolph Church, leading the music; Wayne Tutor, pastor.

Plato made me know the true God; Jesus Christ showed me the way to him.—Augustine

Friendship to mark 25th anniversary

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Devotional Christian Homes

By Anthony S. Kay, pastor, First, Calhoun City

At a battlefield near Spotsylvania, Pennsylvania, the Union and Confederate soldiers were engaged in a heated battle. At the close of the day's campaign, the men settled down before bedtime. The Union soldiers began singing "The Star Spangled Banner." After they finished, the strains of "Dixie," sung by the Confederate soldiers, could be heard from across the battlefield.

The Yanks followed with "Hail Columbia" and the Rebels responded with "Bonnie Blue Boy." Then from one side, the words of "Home Sweet Home" wafted across the field. Both armies joined as one in singing tribute to their home.

The Christian home is of vital importance to our nation. It is a social force where children are people who feel, think, have their unique problems, and need consideration.

Parents are people, too, and they must act in love to discipline and guide the home. They make mistakes, also, and must learn in the experience of parenthood.

The Christian home is not immune from social ills. It grows from the experience of crises and hurts to become stronger and more purposeful.

The home is a spiritual force. The Christian home is characterized by its level of devotion to God. Prayer and worship are to be an integral part of its make-up.

The Christian home is the foundation for a stable society. The church, as important as it is, and the school, as necessary as it is, cannot replace the value and necessity of the home. The hope of the future lies in Christian homes.

So long as there are homes where fires burn and there is bread,

So long as there are homes where lamps are lit and prayers are said;

Although people falter through the dark and nations grope,

With God himself inside these little homes

We still can hope.—Light of the Years by Grace Noll Crowell

1st, McComb Sunday School hits high

First Baptist Church, McComb recently completed a FIVE FABULOUS SUNDAYS attendance campaign. This closed on April 25 with an all-time high attendance of 743, announced Harold D. Fleming, minister of education.

The church recently adopted the Sunday School Growth Spiral. The enrollment has shown a net increase of 96 since Feb. 1, 1982. The monthly average for April was 645. This is 53 per week more than the Sunday School average for 1981.

The campaign was used to involve people in the revival which began April 25 with Harlan Caton as the evangelist. Alan Day is pastor.

Ford's Creek to celebrate 90th

Ford's Creek Baptist Church, Poplarville, will celebrate its 90th anniversary with a homecoming on June 13, and revival June 13-17.

Jimmy Albritton, Zoar Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, a former pastor of Ford's Creek, will be guest evangelist. J. D. Batson, minister of music, First, Poplarville, will lead the singing.

Services will be held June 13 at 11 a.m. with dinner to follow, and again at 1:30 p.m. Services each night of the revival will be at 7:30.

Ford's Creek Church, formed in 1892, held services first in a log church. The church has since moved to three new buildings. The pastor is J. A. Cotten.

Ministers' wives to gather at Hyatt Regency

The 27th annual luncheon of the Conference of Ministers' Wives will be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Tuesday, June 15, at 12. Reservations may be made in advance by sending a check for \$11, payable to the Conference of Ministers' Wives, to Mrs. Geraldine Adams, Route 4, Box 345-J5, Texarkana, Tex. 75502.

Tickets are to be picked up at the Advance Reservations Table in the Superdome. Tickets purchased at the convention will be \$12. No reservations will be accepted after May 31.

Mars Hill reunion planned

Former students, teachers and friends of Mars Hill School, Rt. 2, Summit, Miss. will gather for a reunion at the Mars Hill Baptist Church, June 12 at 10 a.m.

"Bring a sack lunch. Let's dine and fellowship together. Drinks furnished," states E. T. Carruth, of Alexandria, La., who is on the staff of the **Baptist Message** and whose home school and church were at Mars Hill.

Producing Literature for Your Church Requires More Than a Printing Press

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sixteen years, Tom is just one of the many Sunday School Board artists who are committed to the ministry of the local church—your church and theirs.

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Grady C. Cohen President

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Bible Book Series

David's sin and God's judgment

By Howard E. Spell, Clinton

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 15; 12:4-5, 7a, 10-12

With this lesson we begin a unit dealing with problems in David's family and kingdom which will take us through the lesson for June 13.

I. David's lust for Bathsheba (11:1-5)

There have been those who have tried to lessen David's guilt in taking Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. They have pictured her as a conniving woman who knew something of David's habits, and who purposely took her bath where she knew she could be seen by the king. That she was a beautiful woman is expressly stated, but there is no intimation in the Scriptures that she planned purposely to entice David. Even if she had purposely exposed herself, David cannot be excused for what he did.

Having seen the woman, David inquired and learned who she was and had her brought to the palace where "he made love to her" (11:4b TEV).

II. Uriah's death warrant (11:15)

When Bathsheba found she was to have a child, she sent a message to David appraising him of that fact. As king of the land, David could have ignored the message he received and, in effect, said it was her problem and not his.

David seems, however, to have decided on a course of action that would save embarrassment for Uriah and Bathsheba, as well as for himself. He sent a message to Joab, who was commanding the forces laying siege to Rabbah, that Uriah be sent to him in Jerusalem. His plan was to inquire of Uriah about the state of the battle, and then send him down to his house to spend the night with his wife. David reasoned that when a child was born to Bathsheba, Uriah would remember he had been in Jerusalem at a certain time and no suspicions would likely be raised.

David's plan did not work, however, for Uriah did not go to his house after he had talked with the king about the course of the siege of Rabbah. The next morning David learned that Uriah had not gone to his house and the reason given by him for not having done so seems to have no note of suspicion in it.

Having failed the first time, David kept Uriah another day and that night succeeded in getting him drunk, thinking that in such a condition he would overcome the taboo he had about going in unto his wife while others of the soldiers were still in the field of battle.

The plan failed again and David's effort to place the blame on another came to naught. Did David then decide that death for Uriah would be better than embarrassment?

When Uriah returned to the siege of Rabbah, he took with him a letter to Joab that was, in essence, his death warrant. Joab was instructed to place Uriah in the forefront of the attackers and then leave him unprotected so he would be killed by those on the wall of the city. Regardless of what Joab's feeling were, he had been ordered by his king, and he carried out the command.

Joab then sent a messenger to David with news of the battle, advising him of the loss of a number of men, and that Uriah was among those who had been killed.

III. God's judgment on David (12:4-5, 7a, 10, 12)

Following a period of mourning for her husband, Bathsheba was brought to David and she became another of his wives. The Bible in no way seeks to minimize the enormity of David's sin, and does not try to excuse any of his actions.

God sent Nathan the prophet to see David with a story which is quite familiar to those acquainted with these events. Nathan told him of a wealthy man who would not kill a sheep from his own flock to feed a traveler, but took rather the one ewe lamb of a poor man. David became very angry and denounced the rich man, saying the man deserved to die and that he should give the poor man four lambs for the one he had taken. We can only imagine all that went on in David's mind when Nathan said, "You are the man" (12:17a NASV).

In David's case no restitution could be made. Instead Nathan reminded him of much God had done for him through the years, and that in return for all of this he had treated God's word lightly. Furthermore, Nathan gave David God's message: "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife" (12:10 NASV).

Nathan also reminded David that what he had done had been carried out in secret, but that what God would do to him would be accomplished before all Israel (12:12). Those who are familiar with this story will recall that David confessed to Nathan that he had sinned, and his confession has all the earmarks of genuineness. It has long

been accepted that David wrote Psalm 51 at this time. The reader would do well to turn to it now and study it carefully.

Although the writer of 2 Samuel did extol the military genius of David, he did not try to minimize or gloss over the depths of David's great sin. We should realize there was no sin committed in David's having seen a woman taking a bath. The sin came when he gave free reign to the lust to satisfy a sinful desire.

James reminds us: "Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death" (James 1:15 NASV). True then, and true today. God's people need to remember that Satan is continually seeking those whom he may destroy, but we can be comforted by the reminder that with true repentance and confession of our sins to God, there can come forgiveness.



OVER SEVENTY ROYAL AMBASSADOR BOYS AND COUNSELORS from the churches in Adams Baptist Association gathered at First Baptist Church, Natchez, on March 20. The boys participated in softball throw, obstacle course, compass course, campcraft course, egg throw, tug-o-war, and sack races. Gene Bobo directed the field day with assistance from the Royal Ambassador counselors from each church. Don Bush shared with the boys his personal testimony.



SYLVARINA CHURCH, COPIAH COUNTY, held a ground breaking ceremony March 9 for a new education building which will include seven Sunday School rooms, a church office, pastor's study, and two restrooms. Men of the church will construct the facility. Matt Buckles, pastor, said that the church hopes to move into the building this summer.



possible for that creation.

The implications of this notion for ministry today are enormous and far-reaching. Just as God was free from Israel, so we may be free from other persons in the sense of having to use them in order to do good works and, thus, feel as though we have somehow merited God's favor. That freedom from other people then allows us truly to be free for them, that is, open to their needs, vulnerable to what's happening in their lives.

In other words, we are able to exercise deep empathy for others who have such evident need of God's grace. As Wharton points out, any ministry that is based on the biblical revelation is in some sense rooted and grounded in this primary characteristic of God's relationship to Israel. God was free from Israel so that he might be free for them.

III. Something more (8:1-3): The clarion call in Deuteronomy is sounded again and again. Memory was to be tapped, recollections were to be brought into awareness, so that God's free work of love and deliverance would be constantly guiding the lives of the people of Israel. In this section specific reference is made to one of the manifestations of God's grace to his people. In a desolate and barren area where there was little or no means of sustaining themselves with food, the people of Israel discovered a unique phenomenon, a substance which they called manna. This they took to be God's way of providing for them. Beyond that event one of the primary recollections of Israel was of how God fed them in the wilderness.

This word from Deuteronomy is reminding them not only does physical sustenance come from God, but all the other "things" that are important for us to live a full and abundant life. To be sure, we must survive physically if we are to be able to appreciate and appropriate God's gifts in this world, but that physical survival is only one dimension of life. To look back, as Israel was commanded, and remember God's choice, God's deliverance, and to apply that in everyday living is to be open to those dimensions of life which go beyond that which can be seen or touched or eaten. There is the spiritual nurture that is necessary for us to actualize our full humanity.

Jesus recalled this ancient writing when he suffered his severe time of testing in the wilderness and was tempted to turn the stones into bread.

Just for the Record



CENTER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Rt. 7, Meridian dedicated its new parsonage on Sunday, April 18, free of debt. Those on program included T. E. Williams, pastor; Leon Williams, minister of music; Jim Meadows, pastor of Long Creek Church; Jake Williams, former pastor at Center Grove; and Leon Young, director of missions, Lauderdale Association. Dinner was served at the church and open house held in the afternoon.

Construction of the all-electric house began in April 1981. The house has three bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, den, living room, dining room, double carport, with central heat and air, plus a fireplace.

Men of the church did most of the labor. The women brought dinner to the church for them on Saturday work days. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Irby. The church had special services on eight fifth Sundays, with dinner at the church. The people on those eight days gave \$34,353.89 which paid for the house. Alfred Ford was chairman of the building committee. Other members of the committee were the pastor, Roy Lee Moffett; Henry Palmer; M. J. Pogue; E. J. Chatham; Lamar Catlett; Gerald Roberson; Vernon Lucas; and Ernest Hagwood.

Drama premiered at Handsboro church

Stan Tucker of Harrisville recently presented the premiere performance of his original drama, "John the Baptist," at Handsboro Baptist church, Gulfport.

The setting of the drama has John the Baptist in prison, reflecting on his life. At first, he is besieged with doubts. He asks, "Is Jesus the one or should we look for another?" As John ponders the ministry, the miracles, and the message of Jesus, he is convinced that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

Pastor Frank Lay of Handsboro Baptist Church said, "The people of Handsboro were deeply moved by Stan Tucker's presentation of John the Baptist. Any church or group desiring to have him perform 'John the Baptist' may write Stan Tucker, Harrisville, Miss. 39082."



Tucker as John the Baptist.

Ed Wheat and his wife will return to First Baptist Church, Biloxi, for a Love/Life Seminar on May 14-15. They held a similar conference in Biloxi four years ago. Wheat is a family physician and surgeon from Springdale, Ark., who specializes in marriage counseling as well as being known as a Bible teacher and lecturer.

This seminar will be held on Friday evening and all day on Saturday. Wheat will preach on Sunday morning.



THE CARE AND SHARE GROUP of RED BANKS BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL COUNTY, made a quilt to send to Mark and Tammie Worsham of Logan, Iowa, son and daughter-in-law of Homer Worsham, Red Banks pastor, and his wife Kate. Mark and Tammie are US-2 missionaries with the Home Mission Board. Bags of groceries were sent with the quilt. Left to right are Kate Worsham, Dorothy Bumpus, Vidah Mitchell, Beverly Phipps, Ruby Quinn, Gladys Woods, Clara Guffey, Anna Laurence Watkins, Mary Lynn Mayer, Ollie Martin, and Betty Skelton.



Uniform Lesson

Persecuted but triumphant

By Louie Farmer, Jr., Hattiesburg

Revelation 6,7

In these six studies of the Revelation of John we are attempting to see "the big picture" of what John wrote rather than dwell on the minute details of what is admittedly a very difficult book. The Revelation of John, when taken as a whole, presents a wonderful message of love, encouragement and hope to a sorely persecuted people in the "seven churches of Asia" during the time of the Roman Emperor, Domitian.

This message of encouragement is applicable to Christians of all ages. It says to all Christians, whatever their present troubles may be, "God is still on his throne, he will triumph over his enemies, and he will take care of his own from Israel so that he might be free for them."

We are attempting to see John's presentation of the eternal love and justice of God as they work out through the experiences of his people. Our difficulty springs from the method God used in sending the message through apocalyptic writing, which is strange to us. We must not press the descriptive writing for meaning in each detail. The important message is that God will take care of his people. When and how this is done, although important, is secondary to the assurance that he will. Revelation, then, is the logical—even necessary—climax to the entire Bible.

At the end of last week's study we had just seen the Lamb declared to be worthy of breaking the seven seals on the scroll which was in the hand of the one who sits on the throne.

The Lamb had just taken the scroll and all those around the throne in heaven were singing his praise. As chapter five of Revelation ends we were anxiously awaiting the opening of the seals.

I. The opening of the seals (Rev. 6)

As the Lamb broke the first seal, one of the living creatures said in a loud voice, "Come." A man on a white horse was before John. The man was holding a bow and was given a crown. He symbolized a conqueror and was recognized by John's readers as a Parthian cavalryman, setting out to conquer and subsequently to oppress.

That same strength may be discovered by us today as we remind ourselves that having been loved and chosen by God there are open to us abundant riches in life beyond that which can be seen in the material world.

When the second seal was broken the second living creature said, "Come." John saw a red horse whose rider was given power on earth to bring war in which men would kill one another.

As the third seal was broken, the third living creature cried out, "Come," and a black horse appeared to John. The rider carried a pair of scales. A voice was heard quoting exorbitant prices for food, which symbolized that food was scarce and had to be weighed carefully. This suggested famine.

When the Lamb broke open the fourth seal the fourth living creature said, "Come," and a pale horse came into view. Its rider was named "Death" and was followed closely by "Hades." They were given power to kill one fourth of the population of the earth.

Often in the "sevens" of Revelation there is a four and a three. So here, the four horsemen were followed by three other judgments. When the Lamb broke open the fifth seal John saw, under the altar, the souls of those who had been killed for proclaiming God's word. They shouted loudly, asking God to punish those who had killed them. They were told to wait a bit longer.

John saw the Lamb break the sixth seal and terrible natural violence occurred. Even the powerful, the rich, and the mighty men on earth hid in the mountains and called out to the mountains to fall on them as protection from the wrath of the Lamb.

II. Marking of 144,000 (Rev. 7:1-8)

Things were very rough for the enemies of God, but meanwhile, what about the people of God? John gave us a look at what was happening to God's people, before he continued with the opening of the seventh seal (Rev. 8).

In this interlude, John saw a vision of four angels standing at the four corners of the earth and holding back the winds which could destroy much of the earth. Here is a good example of the fact that we must not press the details of Revelation for meaning. We know now that there are not four corners of the earth but that detail has nothing to do with the message John is trying to give us. We also know a bit more about the wind—although our weather reports sometimes would seem to indicate otherwise!

Just then another angel came from the East and told the angels at the four

corners to hold back the winds so that no one would be harmed until he could mark God's people. He put God's seal, or label, or brand on the foreheads of 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel—12,000 from each tribe.

Some interpreters take this account literally and consider the 144,000 marked people to be only Jewish Christians, but most seem to feel that these were the Christians still on earth and the marking was for their protection. In contrast, those of the great multitude seen in the next few verses (7:9-17) were the Christians already in heaven due to martyrdom or otherwise. Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians were in each group.

III. The multitude before the throne (Rev. 7:9-17)

The scene in John's vision shifted to heaven where a multitude too large to be counted stood around the throne. They were from every nation, tribe, people and language. Wearing white robes and carrying palm branches, they said in a loud voice, "Salvation to our God and to the Lamb." The meaning was, "The praise due for our salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb."

These martyrs, dressed in white robes, were around the throne and the Lamb. In circles around them were the elders, the four living creatures, and the angels.

In response to the praise of the martyrs, the angels fell to their faces and worshipped God, singing a seven-fold song of praise, which began by saying "Amen" to the song of the martyrs followed by seven words of praise to God.

John probably was wondering what this multitude in white robes could be. One of the elders asked rhetorical question, "Who are these dressed in white robes?" John answered something like, "That's an interesting question. What do you think?" So the elder told him that these had come from the great tribulation on earth. They had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

The elder continued to give a beautiful picture of what the triumphant shall experience in heaven. They will be around the throne, serving God continually and he will dwell with them. They will have no hunger or thirst, no harm from the forces of nature, and no tears. We are not told what the service to God will be, but it will be performed with triumphant joy.